The Government has taken up programmes under Basic Minimum Services to provide safe drinking water in rural and urban areas, 100 per cent coverage in primary health care facilities, public housing, supplementry nutrition via extension of mid-day meal programmes in primary schools, provision of connectivity to all unconnected villages and habitations and Public Distribution System to provide food security to people below poverty line. From the year 2000-01, a new initiative in the form of Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) has been introduced which essentially builds on the components of BMS and re-orients into a project mode to give greater focus in providing basic services to the people. The PMGY would cover rural housing, rural drinking water, primary health, elementary education and rural roads.

Further, various enactments and statutory provisions provide safeguards to people engaged in formal and non-formal economic activities including those below poverty line.

(c) Education has been given a very high priority in the Ninth Plan. Universalisation of elementary education, achievement of adult literacy, raising the quality of education at all levels, upliftment of educational status of disadvantaged groups including girls and disabled childern and vocationalisation of education have been accorded a place of prominence. The Primary Health Care Infrastructure to provide health care to the people forms part of the Special Action Plan for the Ninth Plan Period. In addition, initiatives to control specific diseases which show a higher inciudence in below poverty line population have also been taken. The Public Distribution System has been an important instrument of Government Policy for ensuring availability of food grains at affordable prices to the people. The people living below poverty line are covered under the Targeted Public Distribution System which ensures a minimum of 10 kg. of food grains per month at specially subsidised prices.

Sugarcane Farmers Defrauding Banks

*552. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD : Will the MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether scandal of hundreds of sugarcane farmers defrauding banks by joining field staff of the Nizamabad (Andhra Pradesh) Co-operative Sugar Factory has been reported;

(b) if so, the action taken against the cane growers and field staff; and

(c) the action proposed to persuade banks to advance loans to genuine parties to whom they are now refusing loans ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh and the same would be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

Delay in the Commencement of Various Projects

†553. PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV:

SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number and names of the project in the country at present which were sanctioned by Government much earlier, but the work of which has not been started ;

(b) the reasons for delay in starting the work;

(c) the cost of the projects at the time of their sanction together with the amount of money likely to be spent thereon at the time of commencement and completion of the work ; and

(d) by when the work pertaining to all the sanctioned projects will be started, together with the time-frame for its completion ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) Out of 463 projects presently on the monitor of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, 9 projects approved prior to 1991-92, *i.e.*, before the start of the Eigth Plan, have expenditure of less than 20 per cent of the anticipated completion cost even after the elapse of 60 per cent of their gestation periods.

(b) to (d) The reasons for delay in starting the work, original sanctioned costs, the anticipated completion costs and likely dates of start and expected completion dates are given in the Annexure [*See* Appendix 189 (Annexure No. 102]

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.